

23rd December 1966.

President N.M. Pusey,
Harvard University,
Cambridge,
Mass.,
U.S.A.

Dear President Pusey,

It was kind of you to look into the matter of Watson's book. I am sorry that you are prepared to accept the smooth words of Mr Wilson at their face value.

No matter how many outsiders may like Watson's book the fact remains that Wilkins and myself, the two people most closely involved, and who know what actually took place, are objecting to its publication. Sir Lawrence Bragg, who originally consented to write an Introduction, has written in a letter to me, "I confess I have been increasingly worried about this book". My own reasons are set out in more detail in the enclosed copy of a letter to Watson dated the 10th October 1966. May I ask you to pass this copy of my letter to the Board of Syndics so that they may be aware of my objections.

This was not, however, the point about which I wrote to you. It is quite unprecedented for a scientist to publish an account of joint work to which his collaborators object. This is the ethical problem to which I wish to draw your attention, since it is the Harvard University Press which is planning publication. In your reply to me you ignored this point and I therefore presume you consider it unimportant. May I quote you to this effect?

Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Crick.

Enc.